HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 16 No. 03 - March, 2008

President's Letter
by Howard, AB9FH

A friend tells me that the red-winged blackbirds have been in her yard for more than a week, so she concludes spring has arrived. I am encouraged, but not quite convinced. I have seen other signs though; the bug spray displays are appearing in stores.

The last few meeting programs have made me want to designate a computer for station use full time, but that might have to wait. My HF radio comes from a vintage when personal computers were just on the horizon, and LED displays were considered "technology". One ham remarked, after Brian, KC9HEK's, presentation at the last meeting, that he wouldn't mind being able to operate his home station when on vacation, but he felt that would not be possible since his family camps instead of staying in hotels. Well, I was able to contribute that when my family went on an extended camping trip back in 2006, almost every campground advertised wireless internet, especially the private ones. No need to pack a station!

On a related note -- was anyone else intrigued by the article in QST on the device for doing computerless PSK-31? Would one of those be a great seed item to encourage participation in the May auction?

Be sure to get those logs in for the FM Simplex Contest! I missed out on this one, but I was able to get my one contact in the Wisconsin QSO party, on 40m. I tuned around and found a Georgia ham calling, "CQ Wisconsin". He made a few other Washington county contacts before me. My antenna was just one of those whip on a loading coil compromises, especially compromised on 40m, but the contact was made which in the end was all that mattered.

Our March meeting will feature Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, from the ARRL. If you recall, he gave a very interesting talk last year and I am pleased that he can make it this year again. April's program will be about alternative energy - a topic of greater interest to me each time I see an electric bill. May is coming before you know it, and I want to encourage as many people to run for the officer and board positions that are on the ballot. And of course, our auction is then, as well. Our June meeting will be before Field Day, for a change, so we want to take some time to go over our F.D. plans.

See you on the 27th!

73 de AB9FH

MRAC Officers

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Howard Parks AB9FH

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Joe Schwarz N9UX

Secretary
Sarah Parks KB9ZNC

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Mark Tellier AB9CD

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Nets Heard in the Milwaukee Area

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast Round Table (SSB)
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130-	ARRL voice news
Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130-	MAARS Swapnet
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap Net
Thu.	**8:00 PM**	**50.160**	**MRAC 6 m. SSB Net**
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	**8:00 PM**	**28.490**	**MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)**
Fri.	**9:00 PM**	**145.390-**	**W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net**
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9FH KF9PU KA9OFA
WB9LNU KB9ZNC

Our thanks also goes to:
Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard, Al Maahs, and Hal Newton, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Thanks to Brian White, who administers our Web Site.

Tom Czaja, Tom Fuszard, Larry Noldan, and Mark Tellier who manage our VEC.

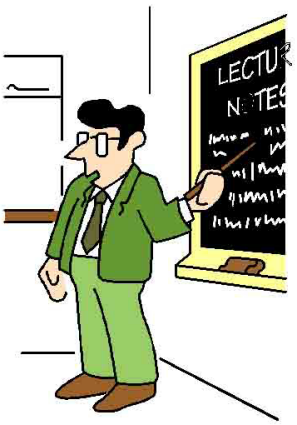
Thank YOU!

Upcoming Programs

The featured program for the March 27th meeting will be by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Marketing Manager, who is in town representing ARRL at SuperFest.

The April 24th program will be by Glenn Schulz who will talk about

Fuel Cells and Other Alternative Energy Sources



General Membership Meeting 2/28/08

By Sarah Parks, KB9ZNC

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m.

The mic was passed for all to ID.

Following Buzz talk, secretary Sarah, KB9ZNC, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Pancho, KA9OFA, noted that the minutes had been adjusted from the copy in the Chatter due to errors. AB9CD clarified that the Extra question pool was being updated, not corrected. These corrections were noted, and the minutes were approved as amended under a motion by Joe, N9UX, and seconded by Brian, K9LCQ.

Treasurer, Mark, AB9CD, gave the treasurer's report. $5,000 has been moved from the checking account into a 7 month CD. Several members noted one typo in a callsign on the report, and the report was accepted as corrected under a motion by Pancho, KA9OFA, seconded by Larry, NZ9I. Mark then presented the club budget for 2008, as requested by the membership. It was noted that the club income comes in almost entirely in the first 2-3 months of the year. The surplus in these months is adequate to cover the monthly deficits in the rest of the year. The club anticipates a net increase in our financial assets, in the range of $100-$200.

Mark, AB9CD, completed the hat trick with a short VEC report. The VEC recently purchased a large container to hold their testing materials, and have obtained permission from AES to store it there.

Old Business: Joe, N9UX, gave a report on the FM Simplex contest. Howard, AB9CD, repeated an item from last month, encouraging members to take advantage of the fact that members are already gathered together at meetings to hold special interest group meetings immediately before or after.

Pancho, KA9OFA, noted that so far no location has been found for the rummage sale. The sale will not be restricted to ham radio or electronic items and is intended to raise discretionary money for the Field Day committee.

New Business: Dave, WB9BWP, announced that Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, of the ARRL would be our guest for the March meeting. Dave is investigating the possibility of other speakers as well. He also reminded the membership that it is possible to have announcements via the repeater for nets or special interest groups.

Howard, AB9FH, reminded the club about the upcoming election; we need both a nominating committee and nominees.

Announcements were made by several individuals concerning upcoming nets and fests.

Mark, AB9CD, is organizing an Extra class at AES, planned start being March 8th. The new Extra class pool becomes active July 1st and by all reports is more difficult than the current one.

Howard, AB9FH, called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Brian, K9LCQ, and seconded by Al KC9IJJ. Motion passed with one vote opposed, at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah, KB9ZNC.

Who Do You Know Wants to be an Officer in MRAC

By Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA

Our April meeting is traditionally our meeting in which we tender our nominations for various Offices and Board members. Then our election will be held at our May general meeting. This year we we will nominate and elect all of the officers and two people to the Board of Directors.

We would like this to be a real election and because of this we would like for there to be to nominees for each position.

If you would like to run for office or know of someone who would be especially good in an office, then please let one of the officers or board members know. All positions are open to the membership. So, come one, come all, and volunteer. We are always open to new ideas and people. We'd like to see some of you, especially the younger people in our club come forward and do something for the good of the club in particular and HAM radio in general.

Too Early for Thoughts of Field Day? Guess, Again!

Field Day is a time when we can get together and check out how good we are at putting together emergency communications out in the boonies and communicating, so to speak, maybe even show some of the public just what we can do and, yes, even have fun while we're doing it. This is also our club picnic at lunchtime on Saturday before we start making contacts.

We'll be arriving at our F.D. site (Pioneer Village Train Depot, 10 miles north of Cedarburg on county Hwy I) at about 8:00 a.m. on Saturday to set up, then break for our picnic lunch just before noon and prepare to have on-the-air fun making contacts usually around noon or 1:00 p.m. Then we operate "round the clock" 'till noon on Sunday. Then we tear down and prepare to leave for home. No need to be there the whole time.

Hopefully, this year, we'll have the resources to again have networked computer logging this year.

It's time to start thinking about Field Day, even though it's still three months off.

If you have any good ideas for things for Field Day, please let any of the officers or the board of directors of MRAC know. We're open to suggestions, ideas, **volunteers**, etc.

For example, in the past, we've thought of balloon or kite supported antennas. We've had solar sustained QRP stations, satellite contacts, packet radio, APRS, Amateur TV, emergency generators, and ladder towers supported beam antennas and several different experimental antennas.

We need volunteers!!!

We have to start planning antenna layouts, food preparation and all sorts of other fun stuff.

Speaking of food, right now I'd like to put out a call to anyone who'd like to volunteer to take care of planning and putting together Saturday's picnic lunch. It seems that the three individuals who have done it in the past several years are unavailable. If you'd like to inquire about it or volunteer, please contact me at:

(414) 344-4694 (if I'm not home, leave a message) or

Email me at: adoneis@wi.rr.com or

You can write to me at:

Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA

1958 N. 38th St

Milwaukee, WI, 53208

The Capacitor (Historical Look)

By Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU

The capacitor, a device for storing energy. The beginning was in the year 1746 at a place called Leyden, Holland, where a physicist named Pieter van Musschenbrock was performing some experiments in an attempt to " electrify " water. Bear in mind that the year 1746 was in the early dawn of the electrical age. Ben Franklin hadn't even gotten around to flying his famous kite yet. (That happened in 1752.) Pieter van Musschenbrock had a number of crude batteries, a variety of glass jars, and some thin copper foil. He lined a very thin glass jar inside and out with the copper foil. Then he filled the jar with water and placed it inside a larger jar which was also filled with water. He attached the batteries to the foils and nothing happened. Pieter naturally assumed that his experiment to electrify water was unsuccessful, so he emptied the jars of water and disconnected the batteries, in the process he accidentally touched the leads connected to the foils and got the shock of his life. This must have been quite a surprise to him since the batteries were no longer connected to the jar. The question was, where did all this electrical energy come from??? Today we know that Pieter van Musschenbrock had by accident discovered the capacitor. It is interesting to note that present day laboratories use a capacitor almost identical to Pieter's original as a standard. It is even called the Leyden jar, in honor of its place of discovery. It is unfortunate that Herr van Musschenbrock's name wasn't a little bit shorter and easier to spell, because he gets very little credit for his discovery. Although Pieter van Musschenbrock discovered the capacitor, another noted scientist's name is more commonly used in connection with the device, Michael Faraday. Faraday developed the method used to measure capacitance. The basic unit of capacitance is named after him, Farad.

For all our new comers, please note that experimenting with capacitors such as Pieter did, can give you a nasty shock. Even a fatal one!!

EVENTS

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. - Mar. 27, 2008

SuperFest 2008 *
Fri .& Sat.-Mar. 28 & 29, **2008**
AES, Milwaukee, WI
* VE testing **Sat. only**

2008 Madison HamFest *
And Computer Show
Sat. - April 19, 2008
Mandt community Center
Stoughton, WI

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -Apr. 24, 2008
Nominations for Election of Officers

3rd Annual Central WI SwapFest
Sat. - Apr. 26, 2008
Colby Lions Pavilion
Colby, WI
T/I on 147.75/147.15 (114.8 tone)

Cedarburg SwapFest
Sat. - May 3, **2008**
Circle B Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on 146.97- (127.3 tone)

Dayton Hamvention
Fri - Sun - May 16 -18, 2008
Trotwood, Ohio

MRAC Membership Meeting
Thu. -May 29, 2008
Annual Auction and Election of Officers and Two- Board members

Princeton HamFest, *
Computer & Hobby Show
June 1, 2008
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton Illinois,
http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm

* indicates VE testing is available.

VE NEWS
BY TOM, KF9PU

We had a nice test session on Feb. 23. Eleven candidates tested, and all but one walked away with either a new license or an upgrade. Included were three new Techs and one person who took all three exams and walked out an Extra Class licensee.

VEs who assisted us were:

Mark Tellier----------AB9CD
David Cannady----- KF6GWY
Bob Diehl ----------WB9KMT
Gail Cronin ----------KB9RJE
Jim Cronin ---------- K9UGD
Mark Bye ---------- KB9LDX

Our next session will be on Mar. 29 at AES. We'll test from 8:30 to 11:00.

VEC financial report forFebruary:

Beginning balance: $4,684.26
Income: $55.00
Expenses: $567.67
Ending balance: $4,171.59

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Our **Six Meter SSB net** is Thursday @ 8:00 p.m. **50.160** MHz USB

Our Ten Meter SSB net is Friday at 8:00 p.m. at **28.490** MHz ± 5 KHz USB.

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390** MHz, minus offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz.

Join us for Saturday Morning Breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.

We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

CQ Third Tuesday
Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:
Old Country Buffet
16750 West Bluemound Rd.
Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMs meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

EXAM SCHEDULE
BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC
Exam Schedule
For upcoming Test Sessions:

Mar. 29 8:30 AES Superfest

Apr. 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

May 31 9:30 a.m. @ AES

For details, check out:

www.w9rh.org/testing.htm/

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

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The **next meeting** of **MRAC**
will be **Thursday, March 27, 2007**
at 7:00 p.m.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390– MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)

Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who is ARRL Marketing Manager, who is in town representing ARRL for SuperFest will be our featured speaker for our program at our **March 27th** general meeting.

Visit our website at: **www.qsl.net**
Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

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First Class